

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/541,443

Applicant: Bessho et al.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.